

CLAIMS

1. A method for identifying an apparatus to be recalled, comprising:

5 collecting information items stored in an integrated circuit (IC) tag attached to an apparatus via a communication network;

 checking the collected information items with respectively corresponding information items related to the apparatus to be recalled; and

10 identifying the apparatus to be recalled, among apparatuses, to each of which an IC tag is attached, based on a checking result and one of the information items which indicates a sending source stored in the IC tag.

15 2. The method for identifying an apparatus to be recalled according to Claim 1,

 wherein the IC tag holds one or more information items related to the apparatus such as a manufacturer name, a product number and a manufacturing period, and

20 in the checking, (i) one or more information items related to the apparatus such as the manufacturer name, the product number and the manufacturing period that are collected in the collecting are checked with (ii) one or more information items related to the apparatus to be recalled, (i) and (ii) being in a
25 one-to-one correspondence.

3. The method for identifying an apparatus to be recalled according to Claim 1,

 wherein the IC tag is attached to a printed-circuit board that
30 constitutes the apparatus, and

 in the identifying, the printed-circuit board to be recalled, among printed-circuit boards, to each of which an IC tag is

attached, is identified based on a checking result and one of the information items which indicates a sending source stored in the IC tag.

5 4. The method for identifying an apparatus to be recalled according to Claim 3,

 wherein the IC tag holds one or more information items related to a component mounted on the printed-circuit board that constitutes the apparatus such as a component manufacturer
10 name, a component number and a component manufacturing period, and

 in the checking, (i) one or more information items related to the component mounted on the printed-circuit board that constitutes the apparatus such as the component manufacturer
15 name, the component number and the component mounting period that are collected in the collecting are checked with (ii) one or more information items related to the component mounted on the printed-circuit board to be recalled, (i) and (ii) being in a one-to-one correspondence.

20 5. The method for identifying an apparatus to be recalled according to Claim 3, further comprising

 wherein the IC tag stores a component number and a mounting condition of the component that is mounted on the
25 printed-circuit board that constitutes the apparatus,

 in the checking, (i) the component number and the mounting condition of the component that is mounted on the printed-circuit board that constitutes the apparatus collected in the collecting are checked with (ii) the component number and the
30 mounting condition of the component mounted on the printed-circuit board to be recalled, (i) and (ii) being in a one-to-one correspondence.

6. The method for identifying an apparatus to be recalled according to Claim 3, further comprising

wherein the IC tag stores information items related to a material that deteriorates with age used for the printed-circuit board that constitutes the apparatus,

in the checking, (i) the information items related to the material that deteriorates with age used for the printed-circuit board that constitutes the apparatus collected in the collecting are checked with (ii) the information items related to the material that deteriorates with age used for the printed-circuit board to be recalled, (i) and (ii) being in a one-to-one correspondence.

7. The method for identifying an apparatus to be recalled according to Claim 1, further comprising

causing the display unit to display a notification that the apparatus is the apparatus to be recalled in the case where the apparatus identified as the apparatus to be recalled in the identifying has a display unit.

8. The method for identifying an apparatus to be recalled according to Claim 1, further comprising

causing the apparatus to update a firmware of the apparatus identified as the apparatus to be recalled in the identifying.

9. The method for identifying an apparatus to be recalled according to Claim 8, further comprising

writing, after the update, that the firmware has already been updated on the IC tag attached to the apparatus whose firmware has already been updated.

10. The method for identifying an apparatus to be recalled according to Claim 8, further comprising

collecting an information item indicating whether the update of the firmware has successfully finished or not via a communication network after the update.

5 11. The method for identifying an apparatus to be recalled according to Claim 8,

wherein, in the updating, causing the apparatus to update the firmware of the apparatus identified as the apparatus to be recalled in the identifying at a predetermined date or time.

10

12. The method for identifying an apparatus to be recalled according to Claim 8, further comprising

examining an operating status of the apparatus to which the IC tag is attached,

15

wherein, in the updating, causing the apparatus to update the firmware of the apparatus identified as the apparatus to be recalled in the identifying when the apparatus is not operated.

20 13. The method for identifying an apparatus to be recalled according to Claim 1,

wherein the collecting includes:

reading information items stored in the IC tag attached to an apparatus in a non-contact manner; and

25 collecting the read information items via a communication network.

14. A method for writing information items in an IC tag placed on a printed-circuit board, comprising

30 writing one or more information items among a component manufacturer name, a component number and a component mounting period on the IC tag mounted on the printed-circuit board at the time when the component is mounted on the

printed-circuit board.

15. A program causing a computer to execute:

collecting information items stored in an IC tag attached to
5 an apparatus via a communication network;

checking the collected information items with respectively
corresponding information items related to an apparatus to be
recalled; and

identifying the apparatus to be recalled, among apparatuses,
10 to each of which an IC tag is attached, based on a checking result
and one of the information items which indicates a sending source
stored in the IC tag.

16. A device for identifying an apparatus to be recalled,
15 comprising:

a collecting unit operable to collect information items stored
in an IC tag attached to the apparatus via a communication
network;

a memory unit operable to memorize information items
20 related to the apparatus to be recalled;

a checking unit operable to check information items
collected in the collecting with respectively corresponding
information items related to the apparatus to be recalled; and

an identifying unit operable to identify the apparatus to be
25 recalled, among apparatuses, to each of which an IC tag is
attached, based on a checking result and an information item
which indicates a sending source stored in the IC tag.

17. The device for identifying an apparatus to be recalled
30 according to Claim 16, further comprising

a display instructing unit operable to instruct the display
unit to display a notification that the apparatus is the apparatus to

be recalled in the case where the apparatus identified as the apparatus to be recalled in the identifying has a display unit.

18. A system for identifying an apparatus to be recalled
5 comprising:

an apparatus to which an IC tag is attached;

a reading unit that reads information items stored in the IC tag; and

10 a device that identifies the apparatus to be recalled connected to the reading unit via a communication network,

wherein the device that identifies the apparatus to be recalled includes:

15 a collecting unit that collects information items, which are read by the reading unit, stored in the IC tag attached to the apparatus via a communication network;

a memory unit that memorizes information items related to the apparatus to be recalled;

20 a checking unit that checks (i) information items collected in the collecting with (ii) respectively corresponding information items related to the apparatus to be recalled; and

an identifying unit that identifies the apparatus to be recalled, among apparatuses, to each of which an IC tag is attached, based on a checking result and one of information items which indicates a sending source stored in the IC tag.

25

19. The system for identifying an apparatus to be recalled according to Claim 18,

wherein the device that identifies the apparatus to be recalled further includes

30 a display instructing unit that instructs the display unit to display a notification that the apparatus is the apparatus to be recalled in the case where the apparatus identified as the

apparatus to be recalled by the identifying unit has a display unit.

20. The system for identifying an apparatus to be recalled,
according to Claim 18,

5 wherein the reading unit is installed in the apparatus.

21. The system for identifying an apparatus to be recalled
according to Claim 18,

10 wherein the apparatus is a household appliance, and
the reading unit is installed in a house.

22. The system for identifying an apparatus to be recalled,
according to Claim 18,

15 wherein the apparatus is a car, and
the reading unit is installed in a road area.